

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 09738 01 OF 02 092101Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

-----010738 092146Z /66

R 091124Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6999
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 09738

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, RP
SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULES APPROVED

REF: MANILA 09507

1. SUMMARY: THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA (IBP), WILL OPEN ON JUNE 12. ITS MEMBERS HAVE SPENT THE LAST TWO WEEKS PREPARING RULES FOR THE BODY WHICH WILL BE THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST LEGISLATURE SINCE MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED IN SEPTEMBER 1972. ITS MEMBERSHIP IS COMPLETE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES FROM CENTRAL MINDANAO WHERE THE RESULTS OF THE APRIL 7 ELECTION ARE BEING DISPUTED; PRESIDENT MARCOS APPOINTED THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET TO THE ASSEMBLY JUNE 1. THE RULES LEAVE CONTROL OF THE IBP IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS CABINET OFFICERS.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 09738 01 OF 02 092101Z

THERE WILL BE LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO SPEAK OUT FREELY. AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, THE ASSEMBLY WILL PROBABLY DO LITTLE MORE THAN APPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS WITH LITTLE INDEPENDENT INPUT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA (IBP), WILL CONVENE JUNE 12,

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY. THE 200 PERSON BODY IS COMPOSED OF 165 LEGISLATORS ELECTED BY REGION, 14 ELECTED FROM YOUTH (6), AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL LABOR SECTORS (4 EACH) WITH THE REMAINDER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT FROM HIS CABINET. PRESIDENT MARCOS' PARTY, THE KILUSANG BAGONG LIPUNAN (KBL, MOVEMENT FOR A NEW SOCIETY) DOMINATES THE BODY WITH 178 MEMBERS; THERE ARE 14 NON-KBL LEGISLATORS, 13 FROM THE PUSYON BISAYA AND ONE FROM THE MINDANAO ALLIANCE. THE ELECTION OF THE EIGHT MEMBERS FROM CENTRAL MINDANAO IS STILL IN DISPUTE. DURING THE IBP'S OPENING SESSION PRESIDENT MARCOS WILL BE SWORN-IN AS PRIME MINISTER. HE WILL HOLD THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER UNTIL THE IBP ELECTS THE FORMER.

3. FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS THE NEWLY ELECTED AND APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE IBP HAVE BEEN CAUCUSING TO ESTABLISH THE BODY'S RULES. DRAWN UP BY A COMMITTEE HEADED BY MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOSE RONO, THE RULES WERE APPROVED BY THE KBL IN A CAUCUS JUNE 8. THEY WILL BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE IBP AT ITS FIRST SESSION. THE RULES HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED IN TOTAL, BUT THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTS:

A) OFFICERS: THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE PRESIDED OVER BY AN ELECTED SPEAKER. HE WILL APPOINT A SECRETARY FOR THE ASSEMBLY AND A SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANILA 09738 01 OF 02 092101Z

THE MAJORITY OF THE IBP. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS INDICATED HE WILL APPOINT A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SOMETIME AFTER THE SESSION BEGINS. DURING ITS JUNE 8 CAUCUS, THE KBL DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION OF A SPEAKER AND OTHER OFFICERS UNTIL AFTER THE LENGTHY BUDGET DEBATE IN ORDER TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES. MARCOS ALSO RECOMMENDED THE ELECTION OF RONO AS FLOOR-LEADER FOR THE KBL. UNTIL THE ELECTION OF A SPEAKER, PRESIDENT MARCOS WILL PRESIDE OVER THE IBP.

B) COMMITTEES: TWENTY-NINE COMMITTEES WILL BE ESTABLISHED. EACH COMMITTEE CORRESPONDING TO A MINISTRY WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE APPROPRIATE CABINET MEMBER. PRESIDENT MARCOS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO IGNORE OPPOSITION AMONG SOME IBP MEMBERS TO RESERVING THESE CHAIRMENSHIPS FOR CABINET OFFICERS. A STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WILL EXAMINE ALL LEGISLATION FIRST BEFORE PASSING IT ON TO OTHER COMMITTEES.

C) PRIVILEGED SPEECHES: THE JUNE 8 CAUCUS DELETED PROVISIONS FOR A PRIVILEGE HOUR AND ADJOURNMENT DEBATES FROM THE ASSEMBLY'S RULES. ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTED MAY 25

THAT ASSEMBLYMEN WOULD BE ALLOWED A LIMITED FORM OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH DURING DEBATES. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK FOR TEN MINUTES, BUT ONLY "TO DEFEND THE LEGISLATURE OR ANY OF ITS COMMITTEES OR INSTRUMENTALITIES." IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS PROVISION HAS BEEN RETAINED. THE QUESTION HOUR HAS BEEN RETAINED AND, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, IT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSTRUCTURED DEBATE.

D) INVESTIGATORY POWERS: COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN MAY ISSUE SUBPOENAS AND SUMMONSES UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 09738 02 OF 02 092105Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

-----010857 092149Z /66

R 091124Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 09738

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

MAJORITY OF THEIR COMMITTEE AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. MEMBERSHIP. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REGION XII, CENTRAL MINDANAO, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE IBP IS COMPLETE. PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED JUNE 1 THE APPOINTMENT OF ALL CABINET OFFICERS WHO DID NOT RUN FOR ELECTION TO THE IBP. APPOINTED WERE SECRETARIES (NOW MINISTERS) VIRATA, JUNIO, MANUEL, GATMAITAN, QUIAZON, SICAT, AQUINO AND VELASCO AS WELL AS PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS CLAVE AND TUVERA, PANAMIN CHIEF ELIZALDE, BUDGET COMMISSIONER LAYA AND NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD CHAIRMAN MAGNO. PROTESTS AND COUNTER-

PROTESTS CONTINUE TO SURROUND THE REGION XII ELECTION.
THE OPPOSITION KUNSIYENSIYA NG BAYAN (CONSCIENCE OF THE
NATION) PARTY HAS HIRED FINGERPRINT AND HANDWRITING
EXPERTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RECOUNTING. IT CHARGES THAT
MASSIVE FRAUD OCCURRED DURING THE ELECTION.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANILA 09738 02 OF 02 092105Z

5. COMMENT: ONCE THE IBP MEETS IT REPORTEDLY WILL REMAIN
IN SESSION FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME, UNLIKE THE OLD CON-
GRESS WHICH MET FOR 100 DAYS A YEAR ONLY. (ONE CABINET
SOURCE INDICATES THE IBP MAY SIT AS LONG AS 240 DAYS A
YEAR.) WHETHER THE IBP WILL SPEND THIS TIME EFFECTIVELY
REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BASED ON ITS RULES IT APPEARS THAT
ITS POWERS WILL BE SEVERELY CIRCUMSCRIBED. THE PRESIDENT,
THROUGH THE CABINET, WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE CONSIDERABLE
CONTROL OVER THE BODY'S AGENDA AND THERE APPEARS LITTLE
OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL PROTESTS ON THE FLOOR OF THE
ASSEMBLY. IN A LENGTHY SERIES ON THE IBP IN THE "BULLETIN
TODAY," OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO BE PEDEGOGIC, C. VALMORIA
WRITES THAT "THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF
THE IBP...ARE CONCENTRATED ON THE ORDERLY TRANSITION FROM
PRESIDENTIAL TO PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM. IBP MEMBERS ARE
EXPECTED LIKEWISE TO DEVOTE THEIR TIME IN HELPING PUSH
THROUGH THE PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT ALONG THE GUIDELINES
OF NATIONAL POLICY AS DETERMINED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND
THE CABINET." FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, THIS IS PROBABLY
WHAT WILL OCCUR. MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RULES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA09738
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780242-0435
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780677/aaaacnwl.tel
Line Count: 202
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dadb428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 9507
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2417867
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULES APPROVED
TAGS: PGOV, RP, INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dadb428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014